

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-05

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66624

DRAFTED BY:NESA/ME:RRBROWN/LPOECHSLI

APPROVED BY:AA/NESA:RHNOOTER

NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN

NEA/ARN:DAKORN

NESA/CD:JSTEPENSON

NESA/TECH:GCOLEMAN

NEA/ALATHERTON

ANALYST NOTE: REENTRY DUE TO OMISSION LINE 2 PARA 2; ALSO
DUPE LINE

----- 123737

R 192326Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION LINE 2 PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TECHNICAL AND CAPITAL PROJECTS TEAM VISIT

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 2786; (B) STATE 266371

1. SUBJECT TO EMBASSY AND SARG CONCURRENCE, AID PLANS TO
SEND FIVE MAN TWO-PART TEAM OF SENIOR TECHNICAL AND CAPITAL
ASSISTANCE EXPERTS TO SYRIA MID-JANUARY. FOLLOWING ARE DE-
TAILS RE PROPOSED VISIT WHICH EMBASSY SHOULD DISCUSS WITH
SARG. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT AID FY 75 AUTHORIZATION
BILL HAS BEEN PASSED BY CONGRESS. PROPOSED CONTINUING RES-
OLUTION AUTHORITY WOULD PROVIDE DOLS 25 MILLION AS INTERIM
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AMOUNT FOR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND PENDING FULLER AP-

PROPRIATION ACTION BY NEW CONGRESS; WE WILL INFORM YOU WHEN CRA APPROVED. HENCE, AS FOLLOW-UP TO NOOTER'S NOVEMBER VISIT, WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO BEGIN NOW WITH MORE DETAILED PLANNING FOR AID ACTIVITIES IN SYRIA.

2. TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF: (A) L. PAUL OECHSLI, DIRECTOR OFFICE MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS; (B) JAMES E. STEPHENSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, AID BUREAU FOR NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA - CAPITAL RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER; (C) A BROADLY EXPERIENCED CIVIL ENGINEER WITH STRONG BACKGROUND IN IRRIGATION AND WATER USE ACTIVITIES. NAME WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTTEL; (D) DR. JAMES BLUME, AID CONSULTANT AND FORMER DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT, AID BUREAU FOR NESA. DR. BLUME IS BROAD-GAUGED AGRICULTURALIST WITH SPECIFIC TRAINING AS SOIL SCIENTIST; (E) DR. FRANCIS LEBEAU, AID CONSULTANT AND LONG-TERM AID AGRICULTURAL EXPERT WITH FORMAL TRAINING IN PLANT PATHOLOGY.

3. TEAM WOULD EXPECT TO ACQUAINT ITSELF WITH SYRIAN PROBLEMS AND STATUS OF TECHNOLOGY RELATIVE TO TOPICS IN REF (A) AND DEVELOP PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND POTENTIAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. GROUP WOULD OPERATE AS A TWO-PART TEAM COVERING A) TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND B) CAPITAL PROJECTS BUT WHERE APPROPRIATE TEAM WOULD WORK JOINTLY, SUCH AS ON AGRICULTURE ASPECTS OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

4. TEAM IS AWARE OF SARG DESIRE THAT SYRIA NOT BE VIEWED JUST AS AID RECIPIENT, BUT RATHER AS FULL PARTNER IN TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES; AND TEAM WILL STRESS MUTUAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED BY BOTH COUNTRIES FROM THESE ACTIVITIES WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

5. ON ARRIVAL, TEAM MEMBERS WOULD FIRST MEET WITH EMBASSY FOR DISCUSSION OF PLANS AND BRIEFING BY EMBASSY OFFICIALS. ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS WILL BE LEFT TO THE EMBASSY AND SARG. TEAM WOULD HOPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HAVE FULL PARTICIPATION OF APPROPRIATE SARG OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY AT WORKING LEVEL BUT INCLUDING POLICY LEVEL.

6. TECHNICAL COOPERATION - WORKING WITH SARG OFFICIALS, TEAM WILL SEEK TO DEFINE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR, THAT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME FRAME, I.E., SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES OF TECHNICIANS, PARTICIPANT TRAINING, TECHNICAL

TEAMS TO WORK ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS, LINKAGES WITH -U-S. UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, ETC. THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD SERVE TO BETTER ACQUAINT U.S. AND SYRIAN TECHNICAL COMMUNITIES WITH EACH OTHER AND LEAD TO THE DEFINITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LONGER RANGE, MORE SUBSTANTIVE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON TOPICS THAT TECHNICAL TEAM PREPARED TO COVER:

A. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. TEAM WOULD HOPE TO LOOK AT IMPROVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN GENERAL AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SHIFT FROM NOMADIC GRAZING TO MORE SETTLED TYPE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. IN ADDITION TO LEARNING ABOUT SYRIA'S SPECIFIC LIVESTOCK PROBLEMS, TEAM NEEDS BETTER IDEA OF HOW SYRIANS PLAN TO RAISE LIVESTOCK. WILL THEY BE RAISED IN SMALL, INDIVIDUALLY OWNED HERDS OR LARGER COOPERATIVES AND STATE FARMS? WILL THEY BE FORAGE-FED AND/OR FED FROM GRAINS PRODUCED ON NEARBY FARMS? TEAM WILL LOOK AT SARG PLAN FOR GRAIN FEED RESERVE, LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT, VETERINARY MEDICINE NEEDS, ETC.

B. MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE. DATA AVAILABLE HERE CONCERNING FARM SIZE, TYPES OF CROPS, AND TENURE OF FARMS IS VERY SKETCHY. TEAM WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN ABOUT THESE ASPECTS OF SYRIAN AGRICULTURAL PLANNING TO BE BETTER ABLE TO EVALUATE FARM MECHANIZATION PROBLEMS.

C. ARID LAND TECHNOLOGY. TEAM PLANS TO DISCUSS SARG NEEDS IN THIS AREA WITHIN CONTEXT OF PLANS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ARID LAND RESEARCH CENTER IN LEBANON. WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PLANS OF THIS INSTITUTION AND ITS SUB-CENTERS. IN WHAT WAY COULD AID SUPPORT A SYRIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUB-STATION ASSOCIATED WITH THIS NEW CENTER? ALSO, TEAM PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SARG INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING LINKAGE WITH U.S. INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS OREGON STATE, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, ETC., FOR SERIES OF PROFESSIONAL AND/OR STUDENT EXCHANGES.

D. TEAM PREPARED DISCUSS UTILIZATION OF FERTILIZERS AND INSECTICIDES. INITIALLY WILL NEED DATA CONCERNING PRESENT AND PLANNED USES OF THESE COMMODITIES. WILL WANT TO EVALUATE LEVEL OF SYRIAN TECHNOLOGY IN DETERMINING REQUIREMENTS AND CURRENT METHODS OF APPLICATION. ALSO SYRIAN PLANS FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCTION COULD BE REVIEWED.

E. INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. OUR

WHOLE UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN AGRO-BUSINESS IS EXTREMELY SKETCHY AND TEAM WILL NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SYRIAN PRESENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THIS SECTOR.

F. SALINE SOIL TECHNOLOGY. TEAM PREPARED FOR PRE-LIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON SALINE AND GYPSIFEROUS SOIL PROBLEMS. THIS MAY BE AN AREA WHERE AID COULD GET STARTED QUICKLY BY OFFERING TO TRAIN SYRIANS WITH FOLLOW-ON TEAM OF U.S. TECHNICIANS FOR SHORT-TERM ADVISORY SERVICES.

G. IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION. TEAM PREPARED TO LOOK AT BOTH SHORT-TERM ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN THIS FIELD AS WELL AS LONGER TERM, LARGER SCALE CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. COMBINED TEAM WOULD BENEFIT FROM VISIT TO DAM SITE ON EUPHRATES AND TRIP THROUGH BASINS TO BE DEVELOPED AS PART OF THIS OVERALL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME. FIELD TRIP SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE VISIT TO Khabur Basin AND LOWER REACHES OF EUPHRATES NEAR IRAQ BORDER IN AREA WHERE POOR DRAINAGE APPEARS TO BE MAJOR PROBLEM. TEAM WILL NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF SARG PLANNING AND EVALUATING UNIT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING NEWLY-IRRIGATED AREAS. WHAT PLANNING, IF ANY, IS BEING DONE TO DIVERSIFY CROPS IN THESE AREAS? HOW ARE IRRIGATED TRACTS BEING INTEGRATED INTO NEARBY RAIN-FED LANDS (E.G., TO BE USED AS IRRIGATED FORAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CROPS FOR LIVESTOCK).

H. PLANT DISEASE CONTROL. TEAM PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS TOPIC IN SOME DEPTH SINCE ONE MEMBER OF TEAM IS PLANT PATHOLOGIST WITH WIDE EXPERIENCE IN FIELD. THIS MAY BE AREA WHERE TECHNICAL EXCHANGE CAN GET UNDERWAY RATHER RAPIDLY.

I. SUGAR BEET TECHNOLOGY. TEAM WILL DISCUSS SARG NEEDS. WOULD ALSO HOPE TO LOOK AT POSSIBILITIES THAT NEW HIGH YIELD VARIETIES OF WHEAT MIGHT OFFER GREATER ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAN SUGAR BEETS AND/OR COTTON.

J. TEAM ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS OTHER TOPICS NOT CURRENTLY ON SARG LIST IF SARG FEELS AID MIGHT BE HELPFUL SUCH AS POSSIBLE ORCHARD AND/OR VINEYARD TECHNOLOGY; ASSISTANCE IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION/PROCESSING, QUALITY CONTROL AND MARKETING; POTABLE WATER PROBLEMS IN BOTH CITIES AND VILLAGES; ETC.

7. CAPITA
ASSISTANCE. TEAM INCLUDES EXPERTISE IN

ENGINEERING AND CAPITAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND WILL BE PREPARED CONDUCT INITIAL SCREENING AND REVIEW OF LARGER, LONGER-TERM CAPITAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS. HOWEVER, TEAM WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL

PROJECTS IN-DEPTH OR CONDUCT PRE-FEASIBILITY OR FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR THESE CAPITAL ACTIVITIES. WOULD HOPE TO GET UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OTHER DONORS ARE DOING IN CAPITAL PROJECT AREA. TEAM WOULD EXPECT TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH CLEAR IDEA OF WHICH CAPITAL PROJECTS APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFICIENT MERIT TO WARRANT FURTHER PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BY APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS INCLUDING FEASIBILITY STUDIES, PRELIMINARY DESIGN, ETC', NECESSARY TO PROVE OUT SUITABILITY OF PROJECTS FOR FINANCING.

8. TEAM PRESENTLY SCHEDULED ARRIVE JANUARY 13 AND WILL REMAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS. SU'3:5 59 -4&-0049;-) 9* ;8 85, EMBASSY REQUESTED MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS.
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9. NO TEAM MEMBERS HAVE ARABIC LANGUAGE FACILITY SO EMBASSY AND SARG SHOULD MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERPRETERS WHEN NECESSARY. IF NEEDED EMBASSY COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO HIRE LOCAL INTERPRETER WITH AID FUNDS.

10. IN EVENT THAT ADDITIONAL CAR AND DRIVER NEEDED FOR TEAM TRANSPORT, AID PREPARED AUTHORIZE FUNDING. PLEASE ADVISE.

11. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS AND CONFIRMATION THAT VISIT ACCEPTABLE TO SARG.

12. DECONTROL AFTER DECEMBER 18, 1975. KISSINGER

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